

To: Director and Laboratory Staff
From: Survey and Appraisal
Subject: SURVEY NOTES

FARM SITUATION AND GENERAL BUSINESS
ACTIVITY

HIGH DEMAND AND STABLE PRICES EXPECTED FOR FARM PRODUCTS IN EARLY 1950; 1949
FARM INCOME BELOW 1948.

The over-all level of prices received by farmers remains fairly steady as improving economic activity sustains a high demand for farm products. With the likelihood of continued high rates of employment and consumer income, prices of agricultural commodities are expected to stay close to present levels in early months of 1950.

Farmers received about 25 billion dollars from marketing during the first 11 months of 1949. This was 10 percent below the same period last year, with receipts down 8 percent on crops; 15 percent on livestock and dairy products; and about the same on poultry and eggs.

Demand and Price Situation, B.A.E., December 1949, p. 1, 10.

COTTON LINT

15.6 MILLION BALES OF 1949 COTTON GINNED

The Bureau of the Census reports that prior to January 16 this year ginnings of cotton from the 1949 crop totaled 15,641,310 bales. To the same date last year 14,140,444 bales of the 1948 crop had been ginned, and two years ago ginnings of 11,390,100 bales of the 1947 crop had been reported.

Report on Cotton Ginning, Bureau of the Census, Jan. 23, 1950.

PRICES OF COTTON, VISCOSE STAPLE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE: FABRIC PRICES, MILL
MARGINS GRADUALLY RISING

The delivered-at-mill price of cotton averaged 33.3 cents per pound during 1949, as compared to 35.2 cents in 1948 and 36.0 cents during 1947. Middling 15/16-inch cotton is now about a cent higher than it was in November, and is becoming highly competitive with viscose rayon staple, the difference in price being around 1.4 cents or less per pound, on an equivalent basis. Viscose staple was more expensive than Middling cotton until 1946, but has cost less than cotton every year since.

After attaining a peak in 1947, prices and mill margins for 17 constructions of cotton fabrics slumped to a low level in 1949, but rose gradually in recent months. Prices of sheeting, osnaburg, and printcloth have followed a similar trend.

Table 1. Prices of raw cotton, rayon staple, and cotton fabrics, and cotton mill margins in cents.

| | : Cotton 1/ | : Viscose staple 2/ | : Acetate staple 2/ | : Cotton fabrics Price 4/ | : 3/ Mill margin 5/ | : Sheeting 6/ | : Osnaburg 6/ | : Print- cloth 6/ |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Averages | | | | | | | | |
| 1940..... | 11.1 | 22.3 | 40.9 | 22.5 | 12.3 | 5.5 | 8.5 | 5.0 |
| 1942..... | 20.5 | 22.3 | 38.3 | 40.4 | 21.1 | 10.3 | 14.7 | 8.9 |
| 1945..... | 23.8 | 22.3 | 38.3 | 43.2 | 20.9 | 11.1 | 14.9 | 9.6 |
| 1946..... | 31.9 | 28.6 | 38.6 | 57.6 | 26.7 | 14.8 | 18.9 | 12.3 |
| 1947..... | 36.0 | 28.4 | 42.5 | 89.0 | 54.8 | 22.6 | 23.3 | 19.0 |
| 1948..... | 35.2 | 32.5 | 42.7 | 81.0 | 48.4 | 18.3 | 22.6 | 18.2 |
| 1949..... | 33.3 | 31.8 | 38.3 | 63.8 | 32.5 | 16.0 | 20.4 | 14.3 |
| 1948, Dec.... | 33.7 | 32.9 | 42.7 | 65.8 | 34.0 | 16.5 | 21.3 | 15.0 |
| 1949, Nov.... | 31.4 | 31.2 | 37.4 | 67.9 | 38.2 | 16.3 | 21.0 | 15.0 |
| 1949, Dec.... | 31.9 | 31.2 | 37.4 | 68.5 | 38.1 | 16.5 | 21.9 | 15.1 |
| 1950, Jan. 19: | 32.6 | 31.2 | 37.4 | - | - | 16.8 | 22.6 | 15.3 |

1/ Cotton Middling 15/16", delivered at mill, lb.

2/ Rayon price to mill of same amount of usable fiber as supplied by one pound of cotton (rayon price x.89).

3/ Cotton fabrics, average 17 constructions.

4/ Price of approximate quantity of cloth obtainable from a pound of cotton with adjustments for saleable waste (Cotton Branch, PMA).

5/ Difference between cloth prices and prices (10-market average) of cotton assumed to be used in each kind of cloth (Cotton Branch, PMA).

6/ Prices per yard as quoted in Daily Mill Stock Reporter and Daily News Record for following: sheeting, 37" 4.00, yd.; osnaburg, 36" 2.35, yd.; and print-cloth, 38-1/2" 5.35 yd.

COTTON CONSUMPTION DECLINED: STOCKS UP DURING 1949

Consumption of cotton totaled 7.9 million bales during 1949, as compared with 9.1 million bales in 1948; 9.8 million bales in 1946; and 11.4 million bales in 1942. Use of cotton was 734 thousand bales during December of last year, or 5 percent below the November consumption. Stocks at the end of 1949 were 12.3 million bales, as compared with 10.5 million bales on December 31, 1948, and 7.6 million bales on the last day of 1947. Active spindle hours and spindle activity declined from 1948 to 1949.

Table 2.- Cotton consumption and stocks, and spindle hours in cotton mills, for specified years and months.

| Calendar Year | : Consumption : | : On hand 1/ : | : Average active spindle hours per month 2/ : | : Average spindle activity per month 3/ : |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| | Bales | 1,000 Bales | Billions | Percent |
| 1940..... | 8,052,238 | 16,888 | 8.2 | 96.2 |
| 1942..... | 11,433,444 | 16,123 | 11.1 | 134.8 |
| 1945..... | 9,141,358 | 12,898 | 8.9 | 113.5 |
| 1946..... | 9,826,786 | 8,212 | 9.1 | 117.6 |
| 1947..... | 9,577,455 | 7,632 | 9.7 | 124.6 |
| 1948..... | 9,095,142 | 10,461 | 9.6 | 124.1 |
| 1949..... | 7,873,786 | 12,333 | 8.2 | 107.4 |
| 1948 Dec..... | 680,670 | 10,461 | 8.5 | 104.1 |
| 1949, Oct..... | 725,602 | 9,496 | 9.0 | 123.3 |
| 1949, Nov..... | 771,833 | 11,972 | 9.4 | 124.8 |
| 1949, Dec..... | 734,013 | 12,333 | 9.2 | 124.7 |

1/ Stocks on hand as of December 31.

2/ Average of 12 months of each year for yearly data.

3/ Spindle activity as per cent of 80 hour capacity. Includes activity on fibers other than cotton. Average of percentages for 12 months for yearly data.

From Census reports.

UNITED STATES PRODUCED 51 PERCENT OF WORLD'S COTTON, CONSUMED 27 PERCENT, DURING 1948-49

During the 1948-49 crop year the United States accounted for 51 percent of the production and 27 percent of the consumption of world's cotton, as compared to 42 percent and 27 percent, respectively, during 1945-46; and 39 percent and 22 percent during 1938-39. Later figures reveal the United States produced 50 percent of the world's cotton crop during 1949-50, which totaled about 9.2 million bales more than the crop of 1945-46 and 700 thousand bales above that of 1938-39. World cotton consumption was 28.4 million bales during 1948-49, or about 3.9 million bales above 1945-46 and 2.1 million bales lower in 1938-39.

Table 3.- Production and consumption of cotton by leading countries, for specified years.

| | Production ^{1/} | | | | Consumption ^{1/} | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------|---------|--|
| | 1938-39: | 1945-46: | 1948-49: | 1949-50 ^{2/} : | 1938-39: | 1945-46: | 1948-49 | |
| | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| | bales | bales | bales | bales | bales | bales | bales | |
| United States.... | 11,617 | 8,852 | 14,649 | 15,200 | 6,858 | 9,163 | 7,795 | |
| Russia..... | 3,800 | 1,700 | 2,600 | 2,800 | 3,809 | 1,600 | 2,200 | |
| India and Pakistan: | 5,151 | 3,609 | 2,800 | 3,575 | 3,436 | 4,125 | 3,910 | |
| China..... | 2,301 | 1,820 | 2,120 | 1,700 | 3,295 | 1,850 | 2,950 | |
| Egypt..... | 1,692 | 1,082 | 1,845 | 1,623 | 121 | 218 | 230 | |
| Brazil..... | 1,989 | 1,350 | 1,470 | 3/ | 642 | 875 | 875 | |
| United Kingdom... | - | - | - | - | 2,690 | 1,611 | 2,020 | |
| France..... | - | - | - | - | 1,295 | 747 | 1,040 | |
| Other countries... | 2,970 | 2,634 | 3,409 | 5,302 | 8,411 | 4,310 | 7,413 | |
| Total world..... | 29,520 | 21,047 | 28,893 | 30,200 | 30,557 | 24,499 | 28,433 | |

^{1/} Quantities given in bales of 478 pounds net, except for running bales for the United States.

^{2/} Preliminary estimate, based on information as of December 1, 1949.

^{3/} Included with "Other countries."

Based on data from "Cotton - Quarterly Statistical Bulletin," International Cotton Advisory Committee, December 1949, p. 5.

COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND EQUIPMENT

CIRCULAR LOOM PRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE MACHINERY EXHIBITION

A new circular electrically driven loom, produced by Fayolle-Ancet Company of France, weaves a 123-1/2 inch fabric at a rate of 550-835 yards of filling a minute (much faster than the conventional loom). It has four sets of harness and eight shuttles, permitting the use of various colors of yarn, but produces only a plain weave. The time taken to change the shuttle (two minutes) minimizes time lost, for once changed the loom will run, assuming no breakages, for about 1-1/2 hours. The manufacturer plans to increase this period by the use of larger pirns and shuttles.

The warp is carried up through the machine from two warp beams placed parallel to each other on either side of the loom. From the beam the warp passes through a standard warp-stop motion thence to distributing reeds. It then enters either two or four sets of harness, which are operated by cams synchronized to

co-ordinate with each of the eight shuttles. From the harness it passes through a horizontal reed, upon which the shuttles operate. After the weft has been inserted, the woven fabric is collected on a roller placed above the loom.

The shuttles, which operate simultaneously (each one working within an individual shed created by the synchronized cam), are held in position against two sets of rollers by electromagnets. The warp threads pass between the shuttle and the rollers. The shuttle is closely followed by a roller which enters and tightens the pick. After this operation, the shed changes and the next shuttle passes. About 1 lb., 8-1/2 ozs. of cotton, or 2 lbs., 7 ozs. of rayon, is held in each shuttle.

Silk and Rayon, November 1949, p. 1424

NEW TYPE COTTON CLEANER DEVELOPED

According to the Thornburg Machine Works of Dallas, N. C., they have developed a new cleaner which operates on the principle of "shaking" the stock, rather than that of "suction" used in the conventional type of equipment. Six beaters are employed in the machine, which can process up to 1,600 pounds of cotton an hour, it is claimed. The machine can be installed in rows or can be hooked to a blending hopper. It has been placed in a number of mills, including Stowe Mills, McAdenville, N. C., and the National Yarn Mills, Belmont, N. C.

Daily News Record, January 9, 1950, p. 38.

COTTON PRODUCTS

BAGS: NET COST OF USING COTTON FLOUR BAGS CHEAPER THAN FOR PAPER AND BURLAP IN JANUARY

On January 15, the net cost of using new cotton bags was \$84.00 per thousand, \$5.15 cheaper than paper sacks and \$49.85 cheaper than burlap bags. Cotton flour bags attained this favorable competitive position by a rise in the price of once-used flour bags, which are now selling for \$155.00 per thousand, as compared to \$110.00 for once-used burlap bags and \$5.00 for bakery run paper sacks. The new-bag price of all types were the same as in December.

The mid-month price of new 100-pound cotton flour bags reached a peak of \$321.70 per thousand in January 1948, but since then has declined considerably and was down to \$237.00 in January 1949, and \$239.00 in January 1950. In comparison, new 100-pound burlap bags sold for \$278.80, per thousand in January 1948, \$234.25 in January 1949, and \$243.85 in January 1950, while paper sacks sold for \$108.65, \$114.05, and \$94.15 per thousand, for the same dates, respectively.

Table 4 - Mid-month prices of 100-pound flour bags for the specified years and months

| (Dollars per thousand) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|----------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|----------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|---|
| | | :Prices, new,: | | :Prices, second-hand, N.Y.: | | Difference | | | | | |
| | | :St. Louis 1/: | | Once-used 2/: | | Bakery run 3/: | | Once-used 4/: | | Bakery run 5/ | |
| COTTON | | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| 1940.....: | 87.38 | : | 6/ | : | 33.33 | : | 6/ | : | 54.05 | : | : |
| 1945.....: | 168.67 | : | 6/ | : | 110.00 | : | 6/ | : | 58.67 | : | : |
| 1947.....: | 300.70 | : | 6/ | : | 155.42 | : | 6/ | : | 145.28 | : | : |
| 1948.....: | 263.36 | : | 150.00 | : | 120.83 | : | 113.36 | : | 142.53 | : | : |
| 1949.....: | 232.00 | : | 132.92 | : | 95.83 | : | 99.08 | : | 136.17 | : | : |
| 1949, Jan...: | 237.00 | : | 140.00 | : | 110.00 | : | 97.00 | : | 127.00 | : | : |
| 1949, Dec...: | 239.00 | : | 150.00 | : | 100.00 | : | 89.00 | : | 139.00 | : | : |
| 1950, Jan...: | 239.00 | : | 155.00 | : | 100.00 | : | 84.00 | : | 139.00 | : | : |
| BURLAP | | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| 1940.....: | 94.81 | : | 6/ | : | 40.72 | : | 6/ | : | 54.09 | : | : |
| 1945.....: | 149.85 | : | 6/ | : | 130.00 | : | 6/ | : | 19.85 | : | : |
| 1947.....: | 256.98 | : | 6/ | : | 126.67 | : | 6/ | : | 130.31 | : | : |
| 1948.....: | 232.28 | : | 6/ | : | 108.75 | : | 6/ | : | 123.53 | : | : |
| 1949.....: | 218.05 | : | 105.83 | : | 101.46 | : | 112.22 | : | 116.59 | : | : |
| 1949, Jan...: | 234.25 | : | 115.00 | : | 115.00 | : | 119.25 | : | 119.25 | : | : |
| 1949, Dec...: | 243.85 | : | 120.00 | : | 100.00 | : | 123.85 | : | 143.85 | : | : |
| 1950, Jan...: | 243.85 | : | 110.00 | : | 100.00 | : | 133.85 | : | 143.85 | : | : |
| PAPER | | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| 1940.....: | 66.52 | : | 6/ | : | - | : | 6/ | : | 66.52 | : | : |
| 1945.....: | 87.40 | : | 6/ | : | - | : | 6/ | : | 87.40 | : | : |
| 1947.....: | 99.69 | : | 6/ | : | 26.11 | : | 6/ | : | 73.58 | : | : |
| 1948.....: | 110.45 | : | 6/ | : | 12.08 | : | 6/ | : | 98.37 | : | : |
| 1949.....: | 103.83 | : | 6/ | : | 6.53 | : | 6/ | : | 97.30 | : | : |
| 1949, Jan...: | 114.05 | : | 6/ | : | 10.00 | : | 6/ | : | 104.05 | : | : |
| 1949, Dec...: | 94.15 | : | 6/ | : | 5.00 | : | 6/ | : | 89.15 | : | : |
| 1950, Jan...: | 94.15 | : | 6/ | : | 5.00 | : | 6/ | : | 89.15 | : | : |

1/ Cotton, 37" 4.00 yd. sheeting cut 43" unprinted; burlap 36" 10. oz. cut 43" unprinted; paper, 18 x 4-1/2 x 36-3/4" unprinted; all l.c.l. shipments. No allowance made for quantity or cash discounts. From a large bag manufacturer.

2/ From a large second-hand bag dealer.

3/ From Daily Mill Stock Reporter.

4/ New minus once-used bags.

5/ New minus bakery run bags.

6/ No data available.

BAGS: COTTON STILL DOMINANT IN COMMERCIAL MIXED FEED BAGS; PAPER MAKING INROADS IN THE PACKAGING OF FLOUR, SUGAR, SALT, CEMENT, AND FERTILIZER.

According to a brief unpublished survey made by the Survey and Appraisals Section of this Laboratory, cotton bags were used to package 39 percent of the flour, 7 percent of the sugar and fertilizer, 40 percent of the commercial mixed feed, 9 percent of the mill feed and cement, and 17 percent of the salt during 1948. Cotton was the dominant packaging material in flour and commercial mixed feed; burlap in mill feed; and paper in sugar, cement, fertilizer, and salt. During 1940-48, paper increased its share of the salt, fertilizer, and sugar packaged at the expense of both cotton and burlap, practically took over the cement packaged, and increased its use in the packaging of flour to nearly equal cotton bags.

Table 5.- Percentages of various major commodities packaged in cotton, burlap, and paper bags, United States, 1940 and 1945-48

| Commodity and year | Cotton | Burlap | Paper | Other ^{1/} | Total quantity packaged |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | 1,000 tons |
| Flour | | | | | |
| 1940..... | 61.4 | 15.3 | 16.8 | 6.3 | 10,192 |
| 1945..... | 55.1 | 11.3 | 21.0 | 12.6 | 13,568 |
| 1946..... | 47.7 | 28.1 | 16.5 | 7.7 | 13,660 |
| 1947..... | 39.9 | 29.6 | 16.8 | 13.7 | 15,121 |
| 1948 4/..... | 38.7 | 13.2 | 36.0 | 12.1 | 13,829 |
| Sugar | | | | | |
| 1940..... | 65.8 | 11.8 | 22.4 | - | 7,274 |
| 1945..... | 45.7 | 8.5 | 45.8 | - | 6,511 |
| 1946..... | 30.2 | 8.6 | 61.2 | - | 5,609 |
| 1947..... | 24.6 | 3.2 | 72.2 | - | 6,640 |
| 1948 4/..... | 7.4 | 1.1 | 91.5 | - | 7,341 |
| Feed | | | | | |
| Commercial mixed | | | | | |
| 1940..... | 27.8 | 17.6 | - | 54.6 | 18,900 |
| 1945..... | 43.0 | 29.2 | 3.4 | 24.4 | 31,000 |
| 1946..... | 37.6 | 34.9 | 2.9 | 24.6 | 27,100 |
| 1947..... | 40.1 | 30.0 | 5.7 | 24.2 | 24,600 |
| 1948 4/..... | 39.6 | 25.2 | 7.0 | 28.2 | 22,200 |
| Mill feed | | | | | |
| 1940..... | 19.8 | 22.5 | - | 57.7 | 6,136 |
| 1945..... | 11.7 | 43.5 | 1.5 | 43.3 | 8,893 |
| 1946..... | 12.4 | 53.3 | 1.8 | 32.5 | 7,877 |
| 1947..... | 11.5 | 49.3 | 1.7 | 37.5 | 8,927 |
| 1948 4/..... | 9.2 | 40.8 | 1.5 | 48.5 | 8,051 |
| Cement | | | | | |
| 1940..... | 31.9 2/ | - | 42.5 | 25.6 3/ | 24,497 |
| 1945..... | 17.4 2/ | - | 52.6 | 30.0 3/ | 20,003 |
| 1946..... | 15.9 2/ | - | 54.3 | 29.8 3/ | 31,835 |
| 1947..... | 10.2 2/ | - | 53.0 | 36.8 3/ | 35,230 |
| 1948 4/..... | 8.5 2/ | - | 60.4 | 31.1 3/ | 38,616 |
| Fertilizer | | | | | |
| 1940..... | 11.6 | 37.2 | 14.8 | 36.4 | 8,250 |
| 1945..... | 11.0 | 7.5 | 61.0 | 20.5 | 13,300 |
| 1946..... | 8.5 | 12.5 | 69.7 | 9.3 | 15,000 |
| 1947..... | 6.7 | 10.9 | 73.3 | 9.1 | 15,165 |
| 1948 4/..... | 7.4 | 6.4 | 79.7 | 6.5 | 15,956 |
| Salt | | | | | |
| 1940..... | 51.0 | 10.3 | 7.5 | 31.2 | 2,783 |
| 1945..... | 67.3 | 7.7 | 19.1 | 5.9 | 3,183 |
| 1946..... | 56.8 | 13.7 | 29.5 | - | 3,249 |
| 1947..... | 26.3 | 5.2 | 40.7 | 27.8 | 3,159 |
| 1948 4/..... | 16.5 | 3.3 | 55.2 | 25.0 | 3,200 |

1/ "Other" includes second-hand bags (except for cement), other containers, and bulk shipments.

2/ New and second-hand cotton bags.

3/ Bulk shipments of cement.

4/ Preliminary estimates.

Based on data from industry sources

TIRE FABRIC: PRICES UNCHANGED

Open market tire fabric prices remained unchanged from December 1, 1949, to January 1, 1950.

Table 6.- Prices of cotton and rayon tire fabric, January 1, 1950 and December 1, 1949

| Fabric | : Cord | : Fabric weight: : per sq.yd.1/ | Price per pound | | Price per sq. yd. | |
|---------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| | | | Jan. 1 | Dec. 1 | Jan. 1 | Dec. 1 |
| | | Pound | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents |
| Passenger car tires: | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Cotton fabric....:12/4/2: | : | .91 | :63.5-64.5 | :63.5-64.5 | :57.8-58.7 | :57.8-58.7 |
| Cotton fabric....:12/3/3: | : | .94 | : 64.5 | : 64.5 | : 60.6 | : 60.6 |
| Rayon fabric....:1650/2: | : | .79 | : 61.5 | : 61.5 | : 48.6 | : 48.6 |
| Truck tires | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Rayon fabric....:1100/2: | : | .62 | : 64.0 | : 64.0 | : 39.7 | : 39.7 |
| Rayon fabric....:1650/2: | : | .78 | : 61.5 | : 61.5 | : 48.0 | : 48.0 |
| Rayon fabric....:2200/2: | : | .82 | : 60.5 | : 60.5 | : 49.6 | : 49.6 |
| | : | : | : | : | : | : |

1/ These are typical fabric weights and vary somewhat for different tire manufacturers.

Based on reports from independent rubber companies.

TIRE CORD: INCREASING DEMAND MAY CAUSE RAYON TIRE CORD SHORTAGE

A shortage of rayon tire cord may develop in the next few months, according to market sources. The current situation was described as "tight", although supplies of rayon tire cord are still enough to fill the needs of tire manufacturers. Heavy volume in tire sales, especially for trucks, and an accelerated shift from cotton to rayon tire cord were given as the main reasons for any shortage which may develop.

Due to warm weather, the demand for tires, especially for trucks, has not taken its usual seasonal drop. More tire replacements will be required this year than in 1949, a fact that is certain to increase the demand for tire cord further.

An additional source of demand for tire cord is coming from the efforts of tire manufacturers to increase their inventories of cord in anticipation of bigger volume in tire sales. Tire cord inventories were allowed to go down during several months last year because of the general leveling off in business.

The accelerated shift from cotton to rayon tire cord during the last half of 1949 is an important factor in the present situation. Most of the big tire manufacturers have now almost completely substituted rayon for cotton except in airplane tires, in which nylon is used. Exhaustion of inventories of cotton yarn by some tire manufacturers points to an almost complete changeover if sufficient rayon cord is made available.

Journal of Commerce, January 9, 1950, p. 18A

COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS

DYNEL: TWO PLANTS WILL BEGIN OPERATIONS DURING 1950

The Union Carbide and Carbon Corp. has revealed that a second dynel plant will be ready for commercial production sometime in the third quarter of this year. The first plant is expected to be producing in the second quarter. Both plants

are located in South Charleston, W. Va. Production and marketing of Vinyon N will also be increased as soon as possible, but the rapidly growing dynel business precludes resources for Vinyon N expansion.

Journal of Commerce, January 6, 1950, p.12.

ORLON: COMMERCIAL OUTPUT SEEN ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1

According to district sales manager H. C. Froehling, DuPont's new orlon acrylic fiber plant at Camden, S. C., is expected to start commercial production about September 1, 1950, and should reach capacity production of around 6 million pounds annually by the end of 1950. Initial production will be limited to continuous filament yarn for industrial and some domestic uses. Orlon staple is being investigated, but there are no plans for producing it at present. Continuous filament will be produced for industrial purposes such as awnings, sailcloths, outdoor furniture, auto tops, and sewing thread. In the domestic field, orlon will be used for curtains, casement cloths, drapery linings, and related items. The price of 75 denier orlon filament is expected to be \$3.35 per pound.

Journal of Commerce, December 29, 1949, p. 12.

RAYON: CHEMSTRAND CORP. ANNOUNCES NEW DEVELOPMENTS

According to the Chemstrand Corp., jointly owned by the American Viscose Corp. and the Monsanto Chemical Corp., the production of "filamatic" continuous yarn advanced to the pilot plant stage during 1949. This yarn is expected to be produced commercially at a capacity of 20 million pounds before 1952. American Viscose has begun to make 10 denier per filament tow on a commercial scale for flocking and upholstery and has expanded its experimental work on both 20 and 50 denier. It was also disclosed that much of the expanded production of vinyon went into Axminster broadloom to produce a hand-carved effect which was introduced a year ago. Vinyon resin staple was also used in non-woven fabrics, special papers, and filter fabric, while new uses were opened up in the non-spill press-felt battery separators and as waddings in bottles of drugs.

Daily News Record, January 3, 1950, p. 32.

RAYON: SYNTHETIC FABRIC CLAIMED TO BE AS WARM AND LIGHTER-WEIGHT THAN WOOL

Deering Milliken & Company claims to be developing a new synthetic fabric which will have all the insulating properties and all the warmth of 100 percent woolen or worsted fabric. This fabric is woven of spun rayon with some chemical added for impregnation. This same process is being used to produce blankets weighing only a quarter as much as the conventional wool blanket. In the future it may be used for wearing apparel.

American Wool & Cotton Reporter, December 15, 1949, p. 36.

RAYON: ANNUAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY EXPECTED TO INCREASE 4 PERCENT BY JULY 1950; WILL REMAIN CONSTANT DURING 1951

According to data disclosed by the Rayon Organon, the annual production capacity for rayon in the United States—which totaled 1,196 million pounds in November 1949—is expected to reach 1,238 million pounds by July 1950 and 1,240 million pounds by 1951. Capacity to produce filament yarn is expected to rise from 915 million pounds in November 1949, to 934 million pounds by July 1950, and 936 million pounds by 1951. The increase will be in viscose-cupra textile yarns and acetate yarns, but no rise will occur in the production capacity of viscose high tenacity yarns. By July 1950, the 1100 denier high tenacity yarn will comprise

14 percent of the anticipated 301 million pound output of this type of rayon; 1650 denier, 78 percent; and 2200 denier, 8 percent. Staple fiber capacity will go from 281 million pounds in November 1949, to 304 million pounds in 1950 and 1951. Production capacity of viscose staple will increase while acetate staple capacity will remain about the same.

Table 7.- Annual production capacity for rayon by types, for November 1949 and forecasted capacity for July 1950, March and October 1951

| (Million pounds) | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| | Capacity | | Capacity forecast | |
| | Nov. 1949 | | July 1950 | Mar. and Oct. 1951 |
| TOTAL..... | 1,196 | : | 1,238 | 1,240 |
| Filament yarn..... | 915 | : | 934 | 936 |
| Viscose, high tenacity..... | 302 | : | 301 | 303 |
| Viscose-cupra, textile yarn.: | 311 | : | 324 | 324 |
| Acetate..... | 302 | : | 309 | 309 |
| Staple fiber..... | 281 | : | 304 | 304 |
| Viscose..... | 175 | : | 198 | 198 |
| Acetate..... | 106 | : | 106 | 106 |

Rayon Urganon, January 1950, p. 6.

RAYON: 160 MILLION POUNDS ADDITION TO RAYON CAPACITY PREDICTED IN NEXT FIVE YEARS

Observers in the rayon market say production capacity will increase 160 million pounds during the next five years. About 100 million pounds of the new capacity will come from plant construction and enlargement, and the remainder from a program directed at quality improvement and better efficiency. One producer is planning additions to his capacity by new construction permitting a production increase of 55 million pounds. Two others intend to increase their production capacity by 20 to 25 million pounds each.

Journal of Commerce, December 27, 1949, p. 12.

VINYON: AMERICAN VISCOSE REDUCES PRICE OF VINYON STAPLE 15 CENTS

The American Viscose Corp. reduced the price of vinyon staple from \$1 per pound to 85¢ per pound in early January. The price of Vinyon filament yarn continues unchanged, the 120-denier, 162-filament high strength yarn remaining at \$2 per pound.

Daily News Record, January 4, 1950, p. 15.

WOOL: CARPET MILLS MAY TURN TO SYNTHETIC FIBERS

Because of high wool costs, carpet manufacturers have shown interest in the possibilities of using nylon, dynel, and rayon for the surface material for woven floor coverings. However, experimental rugs of these fibers must first be tested for wearability, resistance to soiling, and resilience of the pile surface. Manufacturers paid 62 to 64 cents per pound, clean basis, for Argentine carpet wool, and 75 cents for wool from India and the Near East in early January of this year. Argentina, the biggest supplier, sold carpet wool to us for 49 cents per pound during June 1949 and for less than 30 cents during 1947. All carpet wool is imported.

Southern Textile News, January 7, 1950, p. 9.

WOOL BLENDS: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PLANS TESTS OF WOOL BLENDS

According to Miss Bess Morrison, head of the Textile Division, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, the Department of Agriculture's \$17,500 contract with the American Viscose Corp. covers the manufacture of special lots of experimental fabric blends, containing wool and mohair. The contract was awarded in the 1949 fiscal year under the R.M.A. program. The Textile Division will appraise the fabrics, starting in two or three months. Later it is planned to make the fabrics into garments for "wear tests."

The first lot of experimental fabrics contains 25 different types of 25 to 30 yards in length, including two high-grade wool fabrics to be used for a comparison with blends. The Textile Division has made detailed specifications for these fabrics.

The basic idea is to develop new and increased use of low-grade domestic wools in blended fabrics.

Daily News Record, January 12, 1950, p. 23.

MOHAIR: CONSUMPTION UP DURING FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1949

Consumption of mohair, on a scoured basis, for the first ten months of 1949 was 12.0 million pounds, or about 4.2 million pounds greater than the amount used during January-October 1948. Mohair used on the woolen system accounted for most of this increase.

Table 8.- Consumption of mohair, scoured basis, United States, January-October 1948 and 1949

| | : January-October: | : January-October: | : Change since |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | : 1949 1/ | : 1948 1/ | : last year |
| | : 1,000 | : 1,000 | : |
| | : Pounds | : Pounds | : Percent |
| | : | : | : |
| TOTAL..... | 11,954 | 7,801 | + 53 |
| Woolen system..... | 4,254 | 1,097 | +288 |
| Worsted system..... | 7,700 | 6,704 | + 15 |
| | : | : | : |

1/ Total for 43 weeks.

From Facts for Industry, "Wool Manufactures," Bureau of the Census.

MOHAIR: FABRIC PRICES RAISED FIVE PERCENT DUE TO HIGH RAW MATERIAL COSTS; KID AND ADULT HAIR PRICES ABOVE LAST SPRING AND LATE 1948 PRICES; SURPLUS DISAPPEARS

The major weavers of mohair upholstery fabrics have increased their prices an average of 5 percent because of rising costs for raw material. A spokesman of Sidney Blumenthal & Co. said that adult mohair costs his company 55 cents per pound now, with little available, as compared with 32 cents per pound last spring. Other companies, in some cases, are paying 60 cents per pound for adult hair. The spokesman attributes the rise to the government's announcement that mohair will be included in the price support program and to a heightened demand.

Wall Street Journal, December 22, 1949, p. 14.

According to various issues of the Daily Mill Stock Reporter, on December 6, kid and adult mohair sold for 75 and 55 cents per pound, respectively, as compared to 58 and 38 cents on April 5, 1949, and 60 and 40 cents on December 22, 1948.

according to some of the major firms in Boston, close to 12 million pounds of hair were on hand in Texas and thereabouts a year ago, but now the primary markets are about cleaned out. A fair quantity of hair is still available in Boston, but much of it has been sold for future delivery.

Daily News Record, January 4, 1950, p. 5.

PAPER: MULTIWALL BAG PRICES REDUCED THREE TIMES DURING LAST NINE MONTHS

According to J. Howard Rutledge, manufacturers of multiwall paper sacks have reduced their prices three times during the last nine months. The first reduction last spring was brought about by the resistance of consumers who had large inventories and who were expecting a general drop in paper prices. The last two reductions were caused by price competition between the large companies and, to a lesser extent, the entrance of new multiwall sack producers in the field.

The major multiwall sack producers are the St. Regis Paper Co., the Union Bag Co., the International Paper Co., and others. Small quantities are produced by new manufacturers who have entered the field in the last two years, such as Crown Zellerbach Co. and Ames Harris Neville Co. of the west Coast, Negley Bag Co. of Monroe, La., Fulton Bag Co. of New Orleans, La., and the Virginia Carolina Chemical Co. of Richmond, Va. The Hudson Pulp and Paper Co. of Palatka, Fla., and the Chemical Packaging Co. of Savannah Ga., will join this list soon.

Mr. Rutledge stated further that only 500 million units were produced in 1940, as compared to 1,800 million during 1948. The typical multiwall sack today is a better product than before the war, for stronger paper has been developed, enabling a reduction of about 25 percent in bag weights.

Wall Street Journal, January 10, 1950, p.1.

OILSEEDS AND RELATED PRODUCTS

SEE DOMESTIC FATS & OILS PRODUCTION 2 PERCENT ABOVE 1948-49 TOTALS

December crop estimate upped the 1950 fats and oils production forecast to over 12 billion pounds, including oil equivalent of soybeans and peanuts exported for crushing abroad. About 2 percent larger than the 1948-49 output, this is well above the wartime peak of 11 billion pounds. Output of edible fats and oils may total nearly 8.9 billion pounds compared with over 8.7 billion pounds a year earlier, with increases in butter and lard more than offsetting a decline in peanut oil. A 21 percent decline is estimated in the 1949 peanut crop, but the cottonseed crop was about 9 percent larger than a year earlier, if the average ratio between lint and seed is assumed. Production of soybeans was nearly as large as the 1948 record, with record yields about offsetting a moderate decline in acreage. The flaxseed crop was 20 percent smaller than in 1948, but a large carryover indicated that oil production in 1949-50 will likely be as large as a year earlier.

Table 9.- Total acreage, yield per acre, and production of selected crops, United States, for specified years and periods

| Crop | Unit | 1949 indicated December 1 | 1948 | 1947 | Average 1942-46 | Average 1937-41 |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <u>ACREAGE</u> | | | | | | |
| Cottonseed 1/ | 1,000 acres: | 27,359 | 23,163 | 21,500 | 20,189 | 26,358 |
| Soybeans 2/ | 1,000 acres: | 9,912 | 10,430 | 11,212 | 10,198 | 4,126 |
| Flaxseed 3/ | 1,000 acres: | 5,199 | 5,001 | 4,161 | 4,072 | 2,305 |
| Peanuts 4/ | 1,000 acres: | 2,433 | 3,311 | 3,380 | 3,251 | 1,818 |
| <u>YIELD PER ACRE</u> | | | | | | |
| Cottonseed.... | pounds | 473.0 | 513.0 | 435.0 | 433.0 | 414.0 |
| Soybeans..... | bushels | 22.4 | 21.4 | 16.4 | 18.9 | 18.7 |
| Flaxseed..... | bushels | 8.4 | 10.9 | 9.7 | 8.3 | 8.0 |
| Peanuts..... | pounds | 762.0 | 706.0 | 646.0 | 649.0 | 767.0 |
| <u>PRODUCTION</u> | | | | | | |
| Cottonseed.... | 1,000 tons | 6,477.0 | 5,945.0 | 4,681.0 | 4,394.0 | 5,500.0 |
| Soybeans..... | Mil. bushels: | 222.3 | 223.0 | 183.6 | 192.6 | 76.7 |
| Flaxseed..... | Mil. bushels: | 43.7 | 54.5 | 40.5 | 34.0 | 19.6 |
| Peanuts..... | Mil. pounds: | 1,853.0 | 2,338.0 | 2,183.0 | 2,106.0 | 1,395.0 |
| Tung nuts.... | 1,000 tons | 66.1 | 58.5 | 53.2 | 28.7 | 7.0 6/ |

1/ In cultivation July 1.

2/ Harvested for beans.

3/ Planted.

4/ Picked and threshed.

5/ Calculated from the December indication of 1949 cotton lint production and the the 1944-48 average ratio between production of cottonseed and cotton lint.

6/ 1939-41 average.

From the "Fats and Oils Situation," BAE, USDA, December 1949, p. 5.

VEGETABLE OIL PRICES CONTINUE HIGHER; MEALS DECLINE

From mid-December to mid-January, most domestic vegetable oils went up, while oilseed meals showed a slight decline in price. Except for tung oil, the quotations are lower than the 1949 average and very substantially below those in 1948 (table 10, page 13)

CORN: NEW USE FOUND IN GLUCURONIC ACID

Chemists have come up with another super drug, glucuronic acid, made from corn syrup. Doctors find the drug will relieve some cases of arthritis, sciatica and other forms of "rheumatism." These diseases afflict some seven million Americans. The new drug won't cost nearly as much as other fighters of arthritis that have made headlines recently; is expected to sell for around \$1 to \$2 a gram compared with \$150 a gram for the hormone cortisone, and will be much more plentiful. Commercial Solvents Corp. will begin selling the drug early next year under the trade name Glucurone. Almost all their output of 50 pounds a week will be allotted to doctors and research laboratories. They can expand production fairly quickly to meet any potential demand, officials of the company say.

Wall Street Journal, December 31, 1949, p. 1.

Table 10.- Prices of vegetable oils and meals, United States 1939-49

| Year | OILS 1/2, PER POUND | | | | | | MEALS 5/8, PER TON | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Cotton-:Peanut | Soybean: | Corn | Coconut: | Linseed: | Tung | Cotton-:Peanut | Soybean: | Coconut: | Linseed | | |
| | :seed oil: | oil | oil | oil | oil | oil | :seed meal: | meal | 7/meal | 8/meal | 9/meal | 10/meal |
| | : : | : : | : : | : : | : : | : : | : : | : : | : : | : : | : : | : : |
| | : Cents | : Cents | : Cents | : Cents | : Cents | : Cents | : Dollars | : Dollars | : Dollars | : Dollars | : Dollars | : Dollars |
| 1939..... | 5.6 | 5.9 | 4.8 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 9.3 | 23.98 | 24.63 | 27.70 | 25.94 | 35.73 | |
| 1940..... | 5.3 | 5.7 | 4.9 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 9.7 | 28.01 | 26.85 | 28.07 | 20.92 | 28.25 | |
| 1941..... | 9.5 | 9.7 | 8.5 | 10.0 | 8.4 | 10.3 | 30.82 | 28.55 | 33.29 | 33.76 | 32.13 | |
| 1942..... | 12.7 | 13.0 | 11.8 | 12.7 | 11.0 | 12.9 | 36.53 | 40.83 | 42.60 | 50.78 | 38.15 | |
| 1943..... | 12.8 | 13.0 | 11.8 | 12.8 | 11.0 | 15.2 | 42.77 | 44.25 | 45.08 | 51.93 | 46.25 | |
| 1944..... | 12.8 | 13.0 | 11.8 | 12.8 | 11.0 | 15.1 | 48.50 | 53.03 | 51.93 | 50.59 | 45.50 | |
| 1945..... | 12.8 | 13.0 | 11.8 | 12.8 | 11.0 | 15.4 | 48.60 | 53.03 | 52.00 | 49.81 | 45.50 | |
| 1946..... | 16.1 | 15.9 | 14.6 | 15.6 | 12.9 | 19.9 | 68.43 | 68.03 | 70.31 | 60.94 | 65.57 | |
| 1947..... | 25.9 | 26.3 | 23.3 | 25.7 | 20.7 | 34.3 | 78.20 | 76.33 | 83.76 | 71.77 | 82.90 | |
| 1948..... | 25.3 | 25.8 | 22.3 | 25.7 | 26.3 | 29.7 | 77.78 | 76.93 | 86.49 | 86.30 | 77.24 | |
| 1949 11/..... | 11.6 | 13.8 | 11.0 | 12.2 | 17.4 | 24.7 | 60.86 | 64.73 | 75.47 | 58.78 | 66.02 | |
| 1949, Jan..... | 15.0 | 16.6 | 14.3 | 15.9 | 18.2 | 28.8 | 64.40 | 69.25 | 73.45 | 70.50 | 83.40 | |
| 1949, Dec. 11/..... | 10.1 | 11.6 | 10.2 | 10.7 | 16.6 | 18.5 | 61.30 | 63.10 | 68.80 | 56.80 | 73.10 | |
| 1950, Jan. 12/..... | 11.0 | 13.0 | 10.6 | 11.6 | 17.5 | 18.5 | 60.00 | 62.00 | 62.00 | 58.50 | 67.00 | |
| 1/ Crude, tanks, f.o.b. mills except noted. From Oil Paint and Drug Reporter (daily quotations), and from Fats and Oils Situation, BAE (monthly quotations). | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2/ Crude, tanks, Pacific coast. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3/ Raw, drums, carlots, N. Y. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4/ Drums, carlots, N. Y. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5/ Bagged carlots, as given in Feedstuffs (daily quotations) and Feed Situation, BAE (monthly quotations). | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6/ 41 percent protein, Memphis. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7/ 45 percent protein, S. E. Mills. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8/ 41 percent protein, Chicago. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9/ 19 percent protein, Los Angeles. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10/ 32 percent protein, Minneapolis, prior to May 1947; 34 percent protein after that date. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11/ Preliminary. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12/ Quotations as of January 16 on oils and January 14 on meals. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

COTTONSEED: FEEDER'S COST REDUCED BY HULLS

Added proof that cottonseed hulls are efficient, economical roughage in steer fattening rations is contained in a recent report of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. Results obtained in the Ysleta Substation in the El Paso Valley show that when cottonseed hulls replace up to 60 percent of the alfalfa in steer fattening rations, equal or superior results are obtained at a lower feed cost. It was recommended, however, that some alfalfa hay or other vitamin A containing roughage be fed to avoid vitamin A deficiency. Usually, 2 to 4 pounds, daily per head, of legume or other bright hay will provide this needed quantity of vitamin A.

Cotton Trade Journal, December 30, 1949, p.3.

FLAXSEED: WORLD OUTPUT OFF 8 PERCENT IN '49

World flaxseed production for 1949 is estimated at 138.4 million bushels, about 8 percent less than last year's harvest, according to the latest information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. All North American flaxseed crops are smaller than a year ago, but the decreases are offset to a great extent by increases in Europe, South America, Africa, and Oceania. Indications are that the Soviet Union has a sizeable increase in both acreage and production.

Foreign Crops and Markets, January 5, 1950, p.19.

OLEOMARGARINE: REPEAL OF FEDERAL TAX PASSED BY SENATE

The Senate has passed the House-approved oleomargarine tax repeal bill, which removes the Federal levy of 10 cents per pound on colored oleomargarine and 1/4 cent on uncolored. Restaurants serving oleomargarine must label it as such or serve it in triangular form so as to distinguish it from butter. The bill would not affect the sale of colored margarine in 16 states which outlaw the product. Three states also tax both white and yellow margarine, while three others tax only the white variety.

Cotton Trade Journal, January 20, 1950, p. 1.

Margarine production in 1949 will total approximately 850 million pounds, a decrease of about 6 percent from the all-time high year of 1948, but a substantial gain over any other year. In 1949 the per capita consumption of margarine was 93 percent above, while that of butter was 38 percent below, the 1935-39 average.

Journal of Commerce, January 20, 1950, p. 12A.

OLIVE OIL: PRODUCTION ABOVE AVERAGE IN MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

Edible olive oil output in the principal producing countries of the Mediterranean Basin for the 1949-50 season is estimated at 974,700 short tons on the basis of information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This represents an increase of 86 percent over the outturn of 523,400 tons in 1948-49 and 15 percent over the average of 845,200 tons produced in the seasons from 1940-41 to 1944-45. Considerable increases were reported for all countries except Lebanon, with the output 3 times greater in Greece and France, and in Portugal more than double that of the previous year.

Foreign Crops and Markets, January 16, 1950, p.30.

PEANUTS: FULL MECHANIZATION POSSIBLE WITH NEW COMBINE HARVESTER

Successful development of a peanut combine harvester that may open a vast new era in peanut production has been announced by Director George H. King of the Coastal Plains Experiment Station, Tifton, Ga. The new harvesting procedure will place

the peanut in the class of fully mechanized agricultural crops, Dr. King says. The tractor-drawn combine unit covering 2 rows simultaneously, takes the whole plant from the soil, separates the plants from the vines, bags the peanuts, and returns the vine residue to the soil where it may be harvested as livestock feed or left as an excellent soil humus. Under normal conditions the machine will harvest 1 acre of peanuts an hour and will require only 2 men for operation.

Soybean Digest, January 1950, p. 18.

DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF SHELLED PEANUTS CONTINUES ABOVE LAST YEAR

Domestic consumption of shelled peanuts (total all types and grades) September through December has totaled 378 million pounds. This compares with 258 million pounds consumed during the same period last season, an increase of about 47 percent. Edible grade shelled peanuts account for 181 million pounds of the total consumption so far this season compared with 167 million to the comparable date last year. Of the major outlets for edible grades, only salted peanuts decreased from last season.

Table 11.- Shelled peanuts (raw basis) reported used domestically in primary products

| | : Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 | : 1949 (Prel.): 1948 (Rev.) | :: Season, Sept. 1 - Aug. 31 | :: 1948-49 (Rev.): 1947-48 |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | : 1,000 | : 1,000 | :: 1,000 | : 1,000 |
| | : pounds | : pounds | :: pounds | : pounds |
| TOTAL, all grades | 378,276 | 257,774 | :: 710,596 | 604,265 |
| Edible grades, total... | 181,346 | 166,606 | :: 484,431 | 493,266 |
| Peanut candy 1/..... | 47,561 | 39,488 | :: 107,181 | 119,814 |
| Salted peanuts..... | 44,015 | 45,136 | :: 120,018 | 117,155 |
| Peanut butter 2/..... | 85,170 | 80,112 | :: 250,184 | 250,858 |
| Other products..... | 4,600 | 1,870 | :: 7,048 | 5,439 |
| Crushed for oil, cake : | : | : | :: : | : |
| and meal 3/ | 196,930 | 91,168 | :: 226,165 | 110,999 |
| | : | : | :: : | : |

1/ Includes peanut butter made by manufacturers for own use in candy.

2/ Excludes peanut butter made by manufacturers for own use in candy.

3/ Includes ungraded or straight run peanuts.

From "Peanuts Stocks and Processing", BAE,
January 18, 1950.

RICE: WORLD PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

The world rice harvest of 1949-50 (August-July) is estimated at 3 percent less than that of the preceding year, but is slightly above the prewar average, according to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Production is forecast at 7,400 million bushels compared with 7,600 million a year earlier, and the average of 7,300 million bushels during the prewar period from 1935-36 to 1939-40. The decline is centered in Asia, where China's crop has dropped sharply. European and African harvests are expected to approximate those of a year earlier, while record crops may be produced in North and South America.

The World acreage is about 3 million acres, or 1.4 percent less than in the preceding year, principally as a result of reductions caused by civil disturbances in the surplus area of Asia.

Foreign Crops and Markets, January 2, 1950, p. 2.

RICE: NEW PRODUCT OFFERS OUTLET FOR BROKEN RICE

A new market for broken rice, which normally comprises about 20 percent of the rough rice milled, has been found in a branch of the Western Regional Research Laboratory. The broken rice is made into a paste which is then extruded into cream colored "strings." After being plunged into boiling oil and fried, the material is cut into "curls." These "curls" will probably compete with potato chips, soybean and corn flakes, and numerous other tidbits now on the market.

The Rice Journal, January 1950, p. 10.

TUNG: DETOXIFICATION OF MEAL OPENS NEW SOURCE OF REVENUE TO GROWERS AND MILLERS

A new utilization of tung meal, one of the byproducts of the tung nut, has been provided the producers and millers of tung nuts. The dry tung seed contains 20 to 30 percent of oil, which is processed commercially by the expeller process. The residue after extraction of the oil, called the "press cake," consists of approximately equal parts of shell and meal. Because of the toxicity of the meal, no part of the press cake can be used as feed. It is, therefore, disposed of as fertilizer. By a new, inexpensive process of detoxification, this tung meal can now be up-graded for the more lucrative feed markets. Processors willing to modify their operations to use this process can compete both nutritionally and economically with other meals for the feed market.

Tung World, December 1950, p. 8.

PRICE SUPPORT PLAN FOR TUNG NUTS SET

The Department of Agriculture announced that 1950 crop tung nuts will be supported at 60 percent of parity and that future marketings from the 1949 crop will be supported at \$60 a ton, the equivalent of 60 percent of estimated parity. Any United States producer of tung nuts will be eligible for price support under the program. The support price will be based on tung nuts containing 17.5 percent oil. Premiums and discounts will be allowed for other qualities.

Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter, Dec. 26, 1949, p. 3.

CHINA'S TUNG OIL SURPLUS UNLIKELY TO REACH NORMAL OUTLETS IN 1949-50

China's 1949 tung oil production is estimated at 110,000 short tons compared with 126,000 tons last year. On the basis of this latest production estimate an exportable surplus in 1949-50 of 70 to 75 thousand tons is indicated from this year's crop. With the carry-over from 1948, supplies probably could be made available to meet an export demand at the 1947-48 level of 93,239 tons. Due to transportation and marketing difficulties, however, it is doubtful that as much as 55 thousand tons will move out in 1949-50. The present tendency of increasing exports to the U.S.S.R. may further reduce the availability of tung oil for other destinations, particularly under present conditions of low port stocks and slow arrivals.

Foreign Crops and Markets, Dec. 26, 1949, p. 680.

LINTERS AND CELLULOSE

LINTERS: NEW PROCESS FOR CONVERTING LINTERS TO ALPHA CELLULOSE DRAWS INTEREST

A graduate research project at the University of Texas is being watched with interest by industry. Ralph Burdynski, under the direction of Kenneth A. Kobe, professor of chemical engineering, has been working on a new process for making

alpha cellulose from cotton linters, with a wax by-product. The method is not economically feasible as yet, but Hercules Powder Co. has shown an interest, and Du Pont is exploring its possibilities as a source of pure cellulose for conversion to acetate.

Chemical and Engineering News, Dec. 26, 1949, p. 3846

LINTERS PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND STOCKS CONTINUE AT RECORD HIGH LEVEL

Production of linters continued at a record high level during November: 235,000 bales as compared with the previous high of 227,000 set during October, and with 220,000 bales in November a year ago.

Consumption totaled 131,200 bales in December, the largest December use on record and the fifth successive month in which monthly consumption has been at record high levels. Use of linters in November amounted to 131,500 bales; in December 1948, it was 114,000. Bleachers continue to use linters in record quantities. Of the total December consumption, bleachers used 83,600 bales, or 62 percent. This compares with 82,800 bales in November and 72,300 in December 1948. The use of linters by other consumers, although down from the high level of the first 3 months this season, amounted to 47,600 bales, compared with 48,700 in November and 41,300 in December last season.

Stocks of linters totaled 530,000 bales in November, the highest since May of this year and 4,000 bales more than in November 1948.

Linters prices averaged higher in December than during the previous month, with grade 6 higher than at any time during the past 6 months.

Table 12.- Cotton linters: Production, consumption by industries; stocks, and prices, United States, for specified months

| | : December | : November | : October | : September | : December |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| | : 1949 | : 1949 | : 1949 | : 1949 | : 1948 |
| | : 1,000 | : 1,000 | : 1,000 | : 1,000 | : 1,000 |
| | : bales | : bales | : bales | : bales | : bales |
| Production 1/..... | 2/ | 235.0 | 227.0 | 182.0 | 204.0 |
| Consumption 3/..... | 131.2 | 131.5 | 143.1 | 140.8 | 113.6 |
| Quantity bleached..... | 83.6 | 82.8 | 84.5 | 78.9 | 72.3 |
| Other industries..... | 47.6 | 48.7 | 58.6 | 61.9 | 41.3 |
| Stocks 4/..... | 2/ | 530.0 | 468.0 | 410.0 | 609.0 |
| Prices | Cents 5/ | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents |
| No. 2 grade, per lb..... | 10.02 | 9.86 | 10.29 | 10.10 | 8.03 |
| No. 4 grade, per lb..... | 5.67 | 5.63 | 6.25 | 6.16 | 4.82 |
| No. 6 grade, per lb..... | 2.26 | 2.02 | 1.92 | 1.92 | 3.02 |

1/ From Weekly Cotton Linters Review, PMA, Cotton Branch, USDA

2/ Not available.

3/ From Facts for Industry, "Cotton and Linters," Bureau of the Census.

4/ Total stocks in consumer establishments, public storage and warehouses, and oil mills. Stocks at end of the month. From Facts for Industry, "Cotton Linters," Bureau of the Census.

5/ Preliminary.

PRICE OF PURIFIED LINTERS UP; WOOD PULP UNCHANGED

The price of purified linters increased to 8.35 cents a pound in December. This marks the first price change since July when linters pulp fell from 8.70 to 8.00 cents a pound. It is still priced below acetate and cupra grade wood pulp. The average annual price is considerably below that of last year and the lowest since 1942.

Table 13.- Average annual price of purified linters and dissolving wood pulp, 1939-49
(Cents per pound)

| | Purified linters 1/ | Standard viscose grade | Wood pulp 2/ | High-tenacity: viscose grade | Acetate & cupra grade |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1939..... | 5.60 | 3.77 | - | - | - |
| 1940..... | 6.60 | 4.06 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| 1941..... | 7.60 | 4.25 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| 1942..... | 8.20 | 4.25 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| 1943..... | 9.20 | 4.25 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.25 |
| 1944..... | 8.80 | 4.63 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.50 |
| 1945..... | 8.70 | 4.75 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.50 |
| 1946..... | 9.50 | 5.60 | 5.85 | 5.85 | 6.15 |
| 1947..... | 16.30 | 7.03 | 7.44 | 7.44 | 8.04 |
| 1948..... | 11.25 | 7.93 | 8.44 | 8.44 | 9.20 |
| 1949..... | 8.62 | 7.94 | 8.44 | 8.44 | 9.06 |
| 1948, December..... | 9.35 | 8.20 | 8.70 | 8.70 | 9.50 |
| 1949, November..... | 8.00 | 7.50 | 8.05 | 8.05 | 8.55 |
| 1949, December..... | 8.35 | 7.50 | 8.05 | 8.05 | 8.55 |

1/ Weighted averages, 1939-49. On 7 percent moisture basis, f.o.b. pulp plant. Average freight to users is 0.5 cent per pound. Prices supplied by a producer.

2/ Average of monthly prices, 1939-49. Compiled from Rayon Organon and from letters to us from producer. Wood pulp prices are 10 percent moisture basis, f.o.b. domestic producing mill, full freight, and 3 percent transportation tax allowed, December 1, 1947 on; freight equalized with that Atlantic or Gulf port carrying lowest backhaul rate to destination plus 3 percent of backhaul charges, prior to Dec. 1.

USE OF COTTON AND LINTERS IN PULP AND PAPER MANUFACTURE SHOWS INCREASE

The amount of cotton and linters consumed in the manufacture of pulp and paper in the United States during 1949 is estimated at 20 thousand tons or the equivalent of 83,130 bales (478 pounds net weight). This is an increase of 25 percent over the 16 thousand tons used for this purpose in the previous year, but is still 20 percent below the 25 thousand tons so used in 1947.

Table 14.- Consumption of wood pulp and other fibrous materials in pulp and paper manufactures, United States, 1947-49

| Type of product | 1949 ^{1/} | 1948 | 1947 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|
| | Tons | Tons | Tons |
| Total consumption..... | 21,319,384 | 23,496,177 | 22,787,525 |
| Wood pulp..... | 13,549,031 | 14,346,847 | 13,252,924 |
| Other fibrous materials.... | 7,770,353 | 9,149,330 | 9,534,601 |
| Waste paper..... | 6,567,628 | 7,648,510 | 8,009,052 |
| Straw..... | 391,662 | 523,611 | 520,706 |
| Rags..... | 386,413 | 425,468 | 462,388 |
| Flax..... | 54,668 | 60,969 | 65,940 |
| Cotton & linters..... | 19,868 | 15,932 | 24,970 |
| Manila stock..... | 21,393 | 13,426 | 10,071 |
| Other..... | 328,721 | 461,414 | 441,474 |

^{1/} Annual estimate based on 10 months data.

From "Facts for Industry, Pulp and Paper Manufactures in the United States," Bureau of the Census.

MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS

HIGHER SUGAR CONTENT IN MOLASSES AND FEED FOR LIVESTOCK SEEN

Chemists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have developed a process that purified water ordinarily wasted when the great tanks of the beet sugar mills are periodically flushed out. This process transforms the fluid from a smelly health hazard, four times as powerful as ordinary sewage, into a clear sugar solution that can be reused by the refiners, thus saving an estimated 40 million pounds of sugar a year. Much of the salvaged sugar will end up as higher sugar content in the molasses and feed for livestock which pour out of the refineries as by-products. The estimated \$8,000 cost of installing the process will pay for itself in one year's operation at most, according to D. F. Richter, superintendent of the Great Lakes Refinery.

Wall Street Journal, January 16, 1950, p. 1.

SISAL: WASTE FORMS BASIS OF NEW CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Sisal waste is being used to establish a new chemical industry in Britain and in parts of Africa. Research work was started nine years ago, and the first of several plants for handling annually 5,000 tons of waste sisal is now being erected at Thika, near Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

The sisal plant grows to a height of 15 to 25 feet. The leaf contains 94 percent of useless liquid, 3 percent of fibre, and 3 percent waste. Sisal waste is the green skin and flesh of the leaf. Pectins and pectates are the most important derivatives from sisal flesh. They are used in the food processing industries as a thickening agent in soups, a jelling agent in milk products, jellies, jams and confectionery, as a stabilizer for ice cream and artificial cream, and as a clarifier for fruit juices and beer.

The textile industry may become the largest consumer of pectates since, according to the British, they can be used as the basic materials for the manufacture

of pectate threads. These filaments can either be extruded as fibers and woven directly into fabrics or used as a film coating on other fibers, such as very fine woolen thread which could not otherwise be woven. After weaving, the film can be dissolved away, leaving a pure woolen fabric of extremely fine texture.

CHINESE TALLOW TREES TO BE PLANTED IN SOUTH

Southern development of the stillingia tree as a source of chinese tallow, oil, and high protein residue for industry is being made possible by the distribution of 30 thousand young tallow trees from the Lostracco farm near Angleton, Texas. These trees were available on January 1, 1950, to prospective stillingia tree farmers. Thousands of the trees grow in the Houston Gulf Coast Area, but little attempt at orcharding has been made.

Chemical and Engineering News, December 19, 1949, p.3769

